Programme through training of field staff including contractor's staff, providing interest free advance for procurement of required plants and machinery, continuous and regular monitoring of the programme. The Union Minister has written to the State Governments where the implementation of programme is slow and the State Governments have also responded that the issues raised are receiving their due attention.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The progress in the implementation of the programme is monitored through the monthly and quarterly progress reports, and also regional and performance review meetings some of which are chaired by the Union Minister (Rural Development); three tier quality monitoring system; On-line Management Monitoring and Accounting System (OMMAS), visit by National Quality Monitors, visit by Area Officers.

Foodgrain requirement under Annapurna Scheme in Kerala

2551. SHRI K.E. ISMAIL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have approved the number of beneficiaries of Annapurna Scheme in Kerala as 44980, and the requirement of foodgrains as 450MTs per month;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the actual allotment made to the State on this account is only 309 MTs;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the concerned Kerala Minister has represented the matter to the Union Government and has requested for the full allotment of foodgrains, for successful implementation of the Scheme; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) The Annapurna scheme was launched *w.e.f.* 01.04.2000 to provide food security to meet the requirement of those Senior Citizens who through eligible have remained uncovered under the National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS). Under the Annapurna Scheme, 10 Kg. of food grains per month are being provided free of cost to the beneficiary. At the time

of launch of the scheme a numerical ceiling was fixed for the States/ UTs. The numerical ceiling for the State of Kerala was then fixed at 44980 which meant a requirement of 450 MTs of foodgrains per month. From 2002-03, the Scheme was transferred to the State Plan and as per the new guidelines the State has been given flexibility to implement three schemes of National Old Age Pension Scheme, National Family Benefit Scheme and Annapurna by deciding the inter scheme allocations as per the priority accorded by the State. Hence the Central Govt. releases combined allocation for the three Schemes. Therefore, the revised guidelines do not make a mention of the numerical ceilings. Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution has provided the details of the allocation made to the State of Kerala and foodgrains lifted by them during 2001-02 to 2005-06 as under:

Year	Allocation	Offtake
2001-02	4510	3520
2002-203	-	4890
2003-04	3720	3720
2004-05	3720	2720
2005-06	3720	3780

They have further informed that Govt. of Kerala has informed that in the beginning of the year 2003-04 there was a stock of 1688 MTs of rice with them and therefore, the allotment of 2003-04 was worked out as 3715.6 MTs (5397.6-1682) taking into account the unutilized stock of 1682 MTs. The same allocation continued during 2004-05 & 2005-06. They have further stated that on the basis of annual allocation of 3715.6 MTs (monthly allocation of 309 MTs) allotted to the Govt. of Kerala during 2006-07, the State has lifted only 2750 Mt upto January 2007 and this rate they will be able to lift only 3300 MT of rice and therefore the allocation of 3716 MT or 309 MT per month is sufficient for 2006-07.

(d) and (e) Yes, Sir. Minister of Food, Civil Supplies and Animal Husbandry, Government of Kerala has requested the Minister for Rural Development to allot 450 MTs of foodgrains per month as per the allotment approved by the Government of India at the time of launching of the Scheme

to the State of Kerala. The request of the Minister of the State of Kerala was forwarded to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for consideration. That Ministry informed that the proposal of restoration of 450 MTs per month was considered by them and it has been decided to retain the allocation of 309.63 MTs of rice per month for 2006-07. In case in February-March, 2007, the offtake is towards the higher side, the State Government of Kerala could ask them for revision in 2007-08. They have further informed that this decision was duly conveyed to the Government of Kerala.

Non-implementation of the new old-age pension scheme under NSAP

2552. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not implemented the enhanced old-age pension scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme announced in the Budget 2006-07;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the programme and the States which have not implemented the schemes under the programmes; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that the schemes are implemented in all the States without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) All the States except of the State of J&K, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh are disbursing pension at enhanced rate. The State of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have intimated that the matter is under consideration. The State of J&K has intimated that in view of operational constraints, they have decided to implement the proposal for grant of Old Age Pension at revised rates w.e.f. 1st April, 2007.

Under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) Central assistance of Rs. 200 per month has to be provided per beneficiary for destitutes above 65 years. Under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) Rs. 10000/- has to be given to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) bereaved household on the death of the primary breadwinner. The death of such a primary